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CORNELL NOTETAKING

Key Words

- 1) Used wheel for transportation
- 2) Improve the process of pottery making
- 3) Produce copper in quantities large enough to make tools
- 4) Irrigate fields
- 5) Study the stars
- 6) Develop engineering skills
- 7) Developed an efficient numbering system

Main Ideas/Supporting Ideas

- Used in Mesopotamia c. 3250 BCE
- 1st used to make pottery—still used today
- Later used with ploughs, carts, or chariots
- Vehicles pulled—donkeys/oxen
- Also used kiln for pottery—enclosed oven for baking pottery & bricks
- Very high temperatures in kiln, harder bricks and more durable than if sun dried
- Combined copper with tin to make bronze
- Used to make tools stronger than copper ones
- Allowed them to make bigger & stronger boats & vehicles
- Improved transportation allowed trading to far places (ex. India)
- 1st carried water from river to their fields
- Then dug channels & canals to let water flow from rivers to fields
- Sumerian priest found best times for tilling fields & planting/harvesting crops
- Made calendar—two seasons (summer, winter)
- Calendar based on phases of the moon—12 months 30 days
- Used math to build huge temples & complex systems (canals, dikes, ditches)
- Invented number system based on 60—used by mathematicians and astronomers until 1600s'
- System still used today for measuring angles and time
- Clay tablets from c.3000BCE show 5 barrels of oil represented by symbol for oil drawn 5x
- Growth of cities, need keep track of economic activities increase
- Made system that separated symbol of item from amount
- Ex. 5 barrels of oil= symbol for 5 then symbol for oil
- Helped when dealing with large quantities

Connections and Reflections (Summary)

Sumerians used many inventions that are still used today. These include wheels, pottery, copper, astronomy, engineering skills, and a numbering system. I can relate to this because I too use many of these inventions. For example, I use wheels to get to school.